



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1606

**RAEANNE V. CURTIS**  
*Commissioner*

**TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 10, 2010**

**RAISED BILL 413 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DENIAL OF PREQUALIFICATION  
CERTIFICATION BY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is in support of Raised Bill 413 with a suggested change that the review period for contractors be raised from three years to seven.

The DPW is a state agency responsible for design and construction of many state projects. In an average year, DPW manages over \$200 million worth of construction projects.

The Department of Administrative Service's (DAS) Prequalification Program has been an instrumental program to the DPW. The purpose of the program is to prequalify construction contractors, prior to bidding on public construction work, to ensure that such contractors have the integrity, work experience, and qualifications to get the job accomplished.

One of the most important aspects of the Prequalification Program is that contractors are required to submit performance evaluations. The performance evaluation provides detail on the quality of the contractor as well as the contractor's ability to perform.

Raised Bill 413 allows the Commissioner of DAS to deny a prequalification certificate to any contractor, or substantial subcontractor who has received four or more unsatisfactory written performance evaluations in the past three years. DPW feels that the current timeframe of three years may not be the most appropriate. Since the average amount of time it takes to construct a building is between 18 to 24 months the timeframe to evaluate contractors to determine a contractor's suitability should be raised to **seven years**.

A performance based prequalification program that furnishes an incentive for good contractor performance, while at the same time influencing marginal contractors to improve their performance adds value to the contracting process. As such, DPW supports this bill.

The Department of Public Works, if requested, is available to meet to discuss the information contained in this testimony. Please contact Doug Moore, DPW Chief of Staff and Legislative Director at (860) 713-5800 with any further questions.